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in the human mind and though some may be disposed to say this is nothing but another word for original sin, I am sure most will rather be disposed to believe that a very large amount of the so-called plagiarism can be traced to sources quite outside the volitions and intentions of the transgressor.

Notwithstanding this, some may consider, extremely charitable view which we should all take when confronted with evidence that seems a little disconcerting at times, it behooves us all, when we think we have a bright new idea, or a brand new joke, or a bit of new truth laboriously unearthed in research, to search our inner consciousness as well as our environment for the origin of it. At any rate worldly wisdom should teach us not too rashly to forget the precaution of leaving the way open for the claims of others which we may have unintentionally overlooked.

JONATHAN WRIGHT, M.D.

#### CONSERVATION CONFERENCE ON RESOURCES OF INTERIOR WATERS

As indicated by a recent preliminary announcement, Hon. Herbert Hoover, secretary of Commerce, has called a conference at the Fisheries Biological Station, Fairport, Iowa, June 8-10, 1921, for consideration of the conservation of resources of interior waters.

Acting under instructions from Mr. Hoover, the Committee on Organization and Plans has prepared the following outline of the scope and character of the conference.

It is assumed that our water courses, our lakes and ponds not only should serve as avenues of transportation, and channels for removal or reservoirs for storage of surplus surface drainage, but should also continue to provide food and other necessities of life and to furnish the means of essential recreation. It is evident that, with growth in population and with progressive industrial development, the public waters are becoming decreasingly fit to serve these latter ends. It is important, then, to ascertain if the decline in usefulness of the waters is inevitable, and, if it is not, to discover and apply the means of bringing

about improvement. There is a certain community of interest among groups (anglers, commercial fishermen, sanitary engineers and others) that are commonly conscious only of special interests, but as yet there has been no unity of purpose, no concert of effort to serve a common interest. It is certain that the accomplishment of the purpose of each group is conditioned, not only upon public sympathy and support, but upon the cooperative service of scientists representing biology, chemistry and physics, and engineers representing sanitation, hydrology and navigation.

That the conference now called should be as constructive and practical as possible, it is proposed to concentrate attention upon the following principal topics: (1) the depletion of fish and shellfish, its causes and possible remedies; (2) the preservation, value and appropriate utilization of swamp and shore areas; (3) the organization of effort to secure an early beginning upon a constructive program of betterment.

It is believed that the conference may be most effective in accomplishing its ends if it be the occasion, not for a few special addresses, but rather for informal and free discussion from every point of view. It is proposed that on each day there shall be two sessions, morning and afternoon, respectively, with ample intervals between sessions for personal interviews, demonstrations or recreation. Opportunity will be afforded in the evening for special meetings to disclose topics of interest to particular groups or to all. As no talk is expected to exceed ten minutes, opportunity is allowed for the most open discussion. Following is the outline of program:

Wednesday, June 8. 10 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Subject: Depletion of aquatic resources, causes and remedial measures (including principles rather than details of legislative protection). Discussion from the standpoint of the sportsman, the commercial fisherman, the dealer or manufacturer, the biologist, the fish-culturist and the sanitary engineer.

Wednesday evening is left open for special topics arising in course of the discussion of the day.

Thursday, June 9. 10 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

Subject: The value of swamp and shore areas and their utilization as fish and game preserves, for the cultivation of aquatic animals and plants, as reservoirs of food for aquatic animals, and as nurseries for young fish. Consideration may also be given to the additional value of submerged lands in relation to food control, forestry, agriculture and sanitation.

On Thursday evening there will be a special meeting for consideration of the opportunities and needs of research stations.

Friday, June 10. 10 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Subject: Organization of effort to determine what plans of procedure may be immediately followed to further progress in conserving resources of interior waters.

The discussion may be from the points of view of cooperation in scientific research, the training of men to prosecute investigations, the education of the public, the reconciliation of conflicting group interests, the union of effort to secure adoption of appropriate conservation measures, and the possibility of periodic gatherings for promotion of harmonious action.

Through the cordial cooperation of a local committee, special arrangements will be made for utilization of the intervals between meetings in interesting demonstrations pertaining to the topics of the conference, in trips to neighboring points of interest, or in other means of diversion and recreation.

Throughout the conference meals will be served at a small charge based upon actual cost in the dining room of the Biological Station. Lodging without charge will be available in the laboratory or in tents or other temporary quarters. The nearest hotels are found in Muscatine, Iowa, a distance of 8 miles and Davenport 20 miles from Fairport.

All persons expecting to attend are advised to communicate in advance with R. L. Barney, Director of the Fisheries Biological Station, Fairport, Iowa, or J. E. Krouse, Davenport, Iowa, Chairman; Local Committee on Ar-

rangements, in order that suitable reservations may be made for accommodations.

R. E. COKER,  
V. E. SHELFORD,  
J. E. KROUSE,  
A. S. PEARSE,  
F. A. STROMSTER,  
R. L. BARNEY,

*Committee on Organization*

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL AND MR. HOOVER

THE American Engineering Council of the Federated American Engineering Societies met on April 16 at the Engineers Club of Philadelphia. Members attending were: Herbert Hoover, president; Calvert Townley, vice-president, representing A. I. E. E.; J. Parke Channing, vice-president, representing A. I. M. M. E.; E. Ludlow, president A. I. M. M. E.; F. J. Miller, past president A. S. M. E.; M. L. Cooke, Taylor Society; Wm. McClellan, A. I. E. E.; A. S. Dwight, A. I. M. M. E.; A. M. Greene, A. S. M. E., dean of the School of Engineering, Troy Polytechnic Institute; S. H. McCrory, A. S. Agricultural Engineers; W. W. Varney, Baltimore Engineers Club; J. F. Oberlin, Cleveland Engineering Society; O. H. Koch, Technical Club of Dallas; D. S. Kimball, vice-president, dean of School of Engineering, Cornell, A. S. M. E.; Gardner S. Williams, Engineering Society of Grand Rapids; C. F. Scott, A. I. E. E., School of Engineering, Yale University; W. B. Powell, Buffalo Engineering Society; W. E. Rolfe, vice-president, Associated Engineering Societies, St. Louis; L. B. Stillwell, A. I. E. E.; L. P. Alford, A. S. M. E.; H. W. Buck, past president A. I. E. E.; E. S. Carman, A. S. M. E., Cleveland; Philip N. Moore, A. I. M. M. E., Washington.

Mr. Hoover resigned the presidency, giving as his reasons the fact that the American Engineering Council by its constitution was necessarily engaged in furthering national activities which involve legislation; and that he as a member of the executive branch of the government could not consistently direct such